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LETTER DATED 23 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you the full text of the communiqué of the Second Regional Summit on the Crisis in the Great Lakes Region, held at Nairobi on 16 and 17 December 1996.

I should therefore be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Njuguna M. MAHUGU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Communiqué of the Second Regional Summit on the Crisis in the Great Lakes Region, held at Nairobi on 16 and 17 December 1996

1. At the invitation of President Daniel T. arap Moi, Presidents Robert G. Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Yoweri K. Museveni of Uganda, Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, Issaias Afworki of Eritrea, Nelson R. Mandela of South Africa, Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda, Benjamin W. Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania and Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia met at Nairobi from 16 to 17 December 1996, to deliberate on the conflict in the Great Lakes region.

2. Also participating in the Summit were Mr. Ferdinand Oyono, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, representing President Paul Biya, Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the OAU, and Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere, facilitator of the peace process.

3. The Summit reviewed recent developments in the region and noted the easing of the refugee problem in eastern Zaire. The Summit, however, expressed concern that the security situation had deteriorated further since the Nairobi summit of 5 November 1996.

4. The Summit noted with regret that the ceasefire called for in eastern Zaire by the 5 November 1996 summit had not been effected. To this end, the Summit called upon the parties to the conflict to commit themselves to a negotiated, peaceful settlement. Consequently, the Summit directed the Ministers for Foreign Affairs to establish a follow-up mechanism.

5. The Summit reiterated its commitment to the territorial integrity of Zaire in accordance with the OAU charter, and in particular, the Cairo Declaration of 1964 on the territorial integrity and inviolability of national boundaries as inherited at independence[1] and called for non-intervention and an end to cross-border incursions.

6. The Summit welcomed the assurance by President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire to the Foreign Ministers mandated to convey the decisions of the Nairobi summit of 5 November 1996 that the Government of Zaire recognizes the inalienable right to citizenship and nationality of all people within its internationally recognized boundaries, as stipulated in the OAU charter and other relevant international conventions. The Summit considers this assurance a significant step in the search for a lasting solution to the crisis.

7. The Summit expressed regret that the United Nations Security Council in its resolution 1078 (1996) failed to consider the decisions of the Nairobi summit of 5 November 1996[2] and those of the 11 November 1996 meeting of the OAU Central Organ on Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution[3] on the deployment of a neutral force in eastern Zaire.

8. The Summit observed that a large number of Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire had returned to Rwanda for resettlement and expressed appreciation to the

international community for its assistance and urged it to continue to support efforts to resettle, rehabilitate and reintegrate the returnees.

9. The Summit called upon the international community:

(a) To provide substantial assistance for those refugees who have returned to Rwanda;

(b) To encourage the remaining bona fide refugees still in Zaire, as well as those in the United Republic of Tanzania, to return to their respective countries.

10. The Summit decided to entrust Presidents Moi of Kenya, Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Mandela of South Africa and Biya of Cameroon (current Chairman of OAU), acting on behalf of all the leaders of the region, to take the necessary initiatives and steps aimed at assisting in the ending of the conflict in eastern Zaire and promoting peace, stability and security in the country and in the Great Lakes region.

11. The Summit expressed its appreciation to President Daniel T. arap Moi for hosting the Second Summit on the Great Lakes Region at Nairobi and to the Government and the people of the Republic of Kenya, for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to the delegations.

Notes

[1] See A/5763.

[2] S/1996/914, annex.

[3] S/1996/922, appendix.